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FLOOR DEBATE

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Baker for prioritizing this bill. It probably would not have an opportunity for this kind of discussion had he not prioritized it, I'm sure it wouldn't, and I appreciate that and I want to thank him. Also, those members who have examined this and asked to be added as cosponsors, I want to thank them. I...I didn't ask anybody else to stick their neck out when I introduced this; I just introduced it. But there have been supporters who have looked at it and decided that they would like to be cosponsors and I also appreciate that. At the public hearing in the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee, which was on February 13th, we had...we had the support of the clerk from the city of Norfolk, who also sat on that task force, on behalf of cities in that situation and I think she spoke for not only Norfolk but...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...representative views of many of our small towns. Jack Mills testified in support; Randy Boldt with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska, who also sat on that task force and helped with the work; the Nebraska Dental Association; the city of Imperial; the League of Municipalities; and the Nebraska Municipal Power...Public Power Energy Pool. There were no testifiers in opposition to the bill. The bill advanced from Banking, Commerce and Insurance by unanimous vote of the committee, 8 to 0, and I had previously hoped that this would be on a consent calendar but I don't think it is. So we will...we will thoroughly debate it, which it deserves to be thoroughly debated, and I suggest to my colleagues that this is...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR BROMM: ...a concept that is certainly worthy of us examining. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Bourne would move to amend the bill. Senator Bourne...

SENATOR BOURNE: I had...I had my light on before the amendment,